

REMARKS

Claims 36, 39-53, and 56-70 are pending in this application.

In the Advisory Action dated September 19, 2005, the Examiner contends that Applicant's claim language "associated with said inner section" is a broad limitation and that the language "independent of" only means that two elements are not juxtaposed one another. Therefore, the Examiner concluded that the claimed structure could be read on the cited prior art. Although the Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner's position, independent claim 36 is amended herein to better define the structure of the invention.

Amended claim 36 requires the inner section of the tool to have bearing ends extending therefrom beyond the outer sleeve. The bearing ends are shown in Applicant's Figure 4 as elements 204 (left side) and 206 (right side), and are discussed, for example, on page 14, second full paragraph. Applicant's claim further requires the tool to rotate via bearings carried on the bearing ends beyond the outer sleeve. Such structure is clearly shown in Figure 4, where bearing 48 is positioned on the bearing end 206 of the inner section, well beyond the outer sleeve 208.

The structure disclosed in Steinbock is very different. In particular, as shown in Steinbock's Figure 4, the bearings (unlabeled) are carried on the arbor 49 and are not carried on bearing ends that extend from an inner section beyond the outer sleeve.

It is noted that in Applicant's claimed structure, "the outer sleeve includes at least one end face on which a pressure force is applied." Referring to Applicant's Figure 4, the end face is element 230 (see page 15, line 8 of Applicant's specification). Referring to Figure 4 of Steinbock, the only possibly comparable "end face" element is flange 55. Note that in

Steinbock, the bearings are located to the left of flange 55. Since Applicant's claim indicates that the outer sleeve "includes" the end face, any attempt to interpret Steinbock as disclosing such an outer sleeve must include the flange 55 as part of the outer sleeve. Since the bearings of Steinbock are located to the left of flange 55, they are clearly not carried "beyond the outer sleeve" as required by Applicant's amended claims. Instead, in Steinbock the bearings are carried *on the outer sleeve*. To disclose or suggest a structure similar to that claimed by Applicant, Steinbock's bearings would have to be located to the right of the flange 55 in Figure 4. Thus, the combination of Steinbock with the other references relied on by the examiner does not render the present claims obvious.

In view of the above, Applicant respectfully submits that the claims as amended herein are clearly patentable over the prior art cited by the Examiner.

Entry of the present Amendment and allowance of each of the claims is respectfully requested. If there are any remaining issues that need to be addressed in order to place this application into condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to telephone Applicant's undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,



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